The Alexandria Medical & Professional Plaza's Opposition to Making the Duke Street Service Road One-Way

Saturday, September 14, 2024, Docket Item No. 3

We, The Alexandria Medical & Professional Plaza, strongly oppose the Duke Street Service Road, directly in front of our complex, becoming one-way. <u>One way is the wrong way</u> for the following reasons:

1. We are a medical and professional complex made up of 30 small separate offices of doctors, dentists, health care providers and professionals. Our small business professional complex has served the City of Alexandria for 40 years. To get to us, our patients and clients have access to our complex from the west end of the city by turning left from Duke Street at the intersection with Cambridge Road and then immediately turning right onto the Duke Street service road which then takes the patient/client right to our offices within 15 seconds.

2. If the service road becomes one-way, this quick and easy access will be gone. Instead, patients/clients coming from the west end will be required to travel further east on Duke Street, requiring a complicated path of travel to us. This creates a confusing set of directions. The proposed one-way service road will make it harder to attract new business owners and lessees to the complex, because one of our selling points is the current ease and convenience for patient/clients to access our offices.

3. It is further concerning that emergency service vehicles, such as ambulances, traveling east on Duke Street in response to an urgent call for help, would lose critical life saving minutes to get here because the service road would be one-way – creating lifesaving issues for patients at our complex and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

4. Attached are two photos, taken about 30 days ago, showing backed-up vehicles on Cambridge Road at 5:20 pm, going all the way past Bishop Ireton on Cambridge Road and the backup of cars trying to get onto Duke Street.

5. Currently, vehicles can either turn right or left out of our complex onto the service road. The one-way design would force all traffic to turn right, toward the already congested intersection at Cambridge and Duke Street, further clogging this intersection.

6. Making our Duke Street service road one-way is the wrong way.

The Alexandria Medical & Professional Plaza

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